



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
KAZUYA OTSUJI ET AL : EXAMINER BALSIS
SERIAL NO. 09/758,156 :
FILED: January 12, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1744
FOR: CLEANING ARTICLE

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Now comes Kazuya Otsuji who deposes and states:

That I am one of the applicants of the above-entitled application.

That I have been employed by Kao Corporation for 30 years as a researcher in the field of cleaning articles.

That I have read all of the Office Actions in the above-entitled application, and have read and am familiar with each of the references cited in the Office Actions by the Examiner.

That the following experiments were carried out by me or under my direct supervision and control and the results are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

EXPERIMENTS

I. Object

The following experiments relate to the frictional force and tackiness of elastomers used in the present invention and the cited reference, US 3,754,991.

II. Experiments

Preparation of a comparative elastomer sheet

The following components were formulated by stirring. The components are approximately the same as described in Example 1 of US 3,754,991.

- polyvinyl chloride in paste form 100 parts
- plasticizer (Paraplex G25 available from Rohm and Haas) 400 parts
- Ba-Zn stabilizer 4 parts
- hydrocarbon solvent 12 parts

The thus obtained mixture was vacuum-defoamed to remove water content. Then, the mixture was heated to 200 °C for 10 minutes in an oven to prepare an elastomer sheet.

Preparation of a claimed elastomer sheet

A thermoplastic urethane elastomer E660MZAA available from NIPPON MIRACTRAN K.K. was used for a claimed elastomer sheet. This elastomer is the same as used in Example 1 of the specification.

Evaluation

The comparative and claimed elastomer sheets were evaluated in terms of maximum static frictional force and tackiness.

The maximum static frictional force was measured in accordance with the method described in the specification.

The tackiness was organoleptically evaluated by hand. The tackiness was also evaluated in terms of clinging of dog hairs to the elastomer sheet.

Results

	Maximum Static Frictional Force (N)	Tackiness	Clinging of Dog Hairs
Comparative Elastomer Sheet	36.8	Yes	Observed
Claimed Elastomer Sheet	24.5	No	Not Observed

III. Discussion

As can be seen from the results shown in the above table, the maximum static frictional force of the comparative elastomer sheet is out of the claimed range (9.8 to 29 N).

Further the comparative elastomer sheet exhibits tackiness and the dog hairs cling to the sheet. In contrast, the claimed elastomer sheet does not exhibit tackiness and thus the dog hairs do not cling to the sheet.

The above results clearly show that the comparative elastomer sheet cannot successfully catch and remove the dog hairs, and thus cannot entangle the dog hair into an aggregate.

IV. Conclusion

As one can see from the above discussion, the maximum static frictional force of the comparative elastomer sheet is out of the claimed range, and the comparative elastomer sheet exhibits undesirable tackiness and the dog hairs unfavorably cling to the sheet.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date April 2, 2003


Kazuya OTSUJI